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Naval Hospital Enters E-Commerce Realm

Robertson, NHB PAO

"B2B e-commerce," are more than just buzzwords in a world of high finance. To Judy Gitchell, Lead Purchasing Agent and System Administrator for the Standard Procurement System (SPS) at Naval Hospital Bremerton, the words 'business-to-business electronic commerce' describe what she does, and does well. So well that Gitchell was presented with the 'Gary Thurston Product Integration Award,' given to SPS stars that are leading the Navy's revolution in business affairs.

Chuck Mills, director

for Business Information Technology from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, presented Gitchell with a plaque, only the second awarded in Navy Medicine. Gitchell also received a personal letter from Rear Admiral G. H. Jenkins Jr, Deputy for Acquisition and Business Management for the ASN (RD&A) thanking her for her contributions and achieving the goals of the paperless acquisition procurement process.

Neither buzzwords nor award citations really explain what Gitchell did to

be honored from the D. C. team. She explains it this way. "Everyone in the Dept. of Defense had their own procurement systems. Some years ago it was decided that there should be a standardized system. The Navy as a whole started moving towards that goal a few years ago and we (Naval Hospital) went to it in August 1999."

Gitchell attended weeks of training in Florida, Wash. D. C., and locally at Submarine Base Bangor. Along with guiding her own department at the hospital through the electronic

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Gulf War Outreach Team To Brief Regional Service Members; Families

Sharon Ayala, MAMC PAO

An outreach team from the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses arrives at Fort Lewis Aug. 14 to begin a four-day briefing schedule for active duty service members, Gulf War veterans and family members. The out-

reach is part of an ambitious program to military installations across the United States initiated in 1998 by Bernard Rostker, the special assistant. It provides Rostker and his team with the opportunity to listen to the concerns of veterans, service

members and their families and to communicate how the Department of Defense is applying lessons learned from the Gulf War. Since the program began, the team has met with more than 60,000 Gulf

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Naval Hospital Bremerton Opens Hall of History

Judith Robertson, NHB PAO

Bringing history to life was the challenge Naval Hospital Bremerton's First Class Association took on recently as they assembled pictures and information on all the commanding officers involved in the delivery of Navy Medicine in Puget Sound spanning three centuries.

Searching archives as far flung as the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and other Naval Hospitals throughout the country, and as close as storage rooms and closets in the Bremerton hospital itself, HM1 (FMF) Norberto Martinez and HM1 (SW) Jeffrey Shields spearheaded the effort. From dusty pictures and yellowing biographies they constructed the shiny new "Hall of History," an informational and photographic display of the 58 past commanding officers who have led the Navy's healthcare providers in the Puget

Sound area since the 1800s.

Beginning with Ensign James Stroughton, Passed Assistant Surgeon, who commanded the delivery of medical care beginning in April 1895, to the present Commanding Officer, Capt. Gregg Parker, MC, who came on board in Aug. 1997, the pictures and biographies reflect the changing emphasis on rank, insignia, style of dress and uniforms over the years.

Gathering history from the 1800s and early 1900s was an interesting learning experience, Martinez said. "I even called my sister in San Diego and asked her to go to the Naval hospital there and get a list of past COs. Then we compared the lists. If a CO had come from there or gone there, we were sometimes able to find a picture or get information from their historical files," he said.

The Hall of History was offi-

cially opened for public display at a ribbon cutting June 20. Two former commanding officers, Capt. (ret.) Jack Bartlett (87 -89), and Capt. (ret.) Roland McKee (91-92), whose pictures are on display, joined by First Class Association representatives, assisted Parker with the opening ceremonies.

Another picture on the wall familiar to all Navy medical personnel is that of Capt. Richard A. Nelson, MC, currently Vice Admiral Nelson, Surgeon General of the Navy, who served as commanding officer here from Mar. 1989 to Mar. 1991.

The Hall of History adorns the walls on the sub-level hallway adjacent to Ross Auditorium.

Screenings; Info Available at Upcoming Ft. Lewis Retiree Health Fair

The Madigan Army Medical Center Retiree Health Fair will take place Friday, Aug. 18. The doors open at 7:30 a.m. at the American Lake Club on North Fort Lewis. Nearly 1,000 military retirees and family members are expected to attend this year's health fair, which is sponsored by Madigan and Fort Lewis Retiree Services.

Attendees will be afforded the opportunity to receive free health screenings such as blood pressure checks, cholesterol screens, hearing tests, blood sugar checks, oral

cancer screening, lung function testing and nutrition screens. Additionally, a wide variety of health topics and information will be available including education on: cancer awareness, protecting joints, foot care, arthritis, immunizations, urinary incontinence, heart disease, managing heartburn, menopause, osteoporosis, biofeedback and much, more!

According to MAJ Sherri

Baker, the project officer, "The health screenings prove to be a major draw every year. It's also an opportunity for the Madigan health care team to seize the moment by addressing the importance of self-care issues, and also stressing the need for follow-up care when appropriate. There's a wealth of information available to the attendees."



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Naval Hospital Enters E-Commerce Realm Cont'd

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morass of the new system, and being the liaison with the hospital's management Information Dept., Gitchell had additional responsibility as a member of the SPS Pacific Northwest Performance Support Forum. She also spearheaded the regional approach to procurement processes with Naval Hospital Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island.

What has been accomplished saves the hospital, and all others connected to the electronic system, time and money Gitchell said. "It ties everyone together so we're paperless. When we do our purchase orders now, it electronically sends it to all the appropriate facilities for payment purposes and tracking. We used to spend hours at the copier, especially at annual contract time. Now we can even

send the contracts by email. It has just saved a lot of time for everyone."



An added benefit, Gitchell said, is that now anyone connected to SPS can look up anything anyone else has ordered. "You can look at all of the buys from all the commands who are on line, for instance all of BU-MED (Bureau of Medicine and Surgery) is now on the system. "This is particularly good when there is a complicated purchase, Gitchell said. "There are probably already some guidelines out

there."

Pat Troutner, Gitchell's immediate supervisor and assistant dept. head of the hospital's Materials Management Dept. is the best judge of the effort expended.

"She has been the driving force in this very successful implementation. Our 'Initial' and 'Full Operational Capability' certifications were a direct result of her dedication," Troutner said. "And at no time during this process was the service to our customers compromised."

Gitchell said the award came as a complete surprise. "It was a real honor. It is nice to know you are appreciated for your work, but I wouldn't be getting this award if it weren't for the help from the other Purchasing Agents, Rachel Klinefelter and Becky Smith."

Gulf War Outreach Team To Brief Regional Service Members; Families Cont'd

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War veterans, service members, family members and the public.

During the August outreach visit, the team will hold a series of information briefings at Fort Lewis, McChord Air Force Base and Naval Station Bremerton. Briefing topics include investigation results on reported chemical or biological warfare events and potential environmental exposures, DoD's force health protection efforts, and resources available to Gulf War veterans and their fami-

lies.

Briefings will be held during the business day on the installations and nearby military hospitals. Family member briefings, which are also open to the public, will be held on the installations in the evenings. The outreach team will also provide information displays at high traffic areas on the installations, and at the Fort Lewis Retiree Activity Day, August 18th at American Lake.

The outreach effort will culminate with a town hall meeting in

Letterman Auditorium at Madigan Army Medical Center from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 17. The town hall meeting is a public forum designed to meet with Gulf War veterans, family members and concerned citizens, to listen to their concerns and provide feedback on how the Pentagon is applying lessons learned from the Gulf War.

For more information, contact Austin Camacho at (703) 845-8345.

47th CSH Training Mission Helps Under-Developed Nations Visualize Goodwill

MAMC PAO

An eight-member medical team consisting of soldiers from Madigan Army Medical Center and the 47th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) have initiated a new Humanitarian Assistance Eye Surgical Team that helps to restore vision to individuals living in underdeveloped countries. Inspired by the vision of recently departed MAMC Commander BG Mack Hill, and 47th CSH Commander Col. Dennis Allison, the team obtains realistic training in a remote setting, while fostering good will with the local people.

The 47th CSH will support COBRA GOLD 01, which is a joint Thailand - United States exercise. "We provide comprehensive community health screenings, which include dental, eye, health, sanitation, veterinary and nutritional examinations for an entire village," said MAJ Darryl Ainbinder, staff ophthalmologist at Madigan. "By doing this, we are able to identify the people who require immediate care, and low

tech sustainable care."

The eye teams identify those patients who require surgical care for advanced cataracts or other diseases and refer them to the Thai health ministry. The MEDCAP eye teams will examine over 3,000 patients and distribute over 2,000 glasses for a very poor rural population. Many of the injuries and poor sight are preventable with simple measures including glasses. Free eyeglasses are provided to individuals who could not afford them nor perform day-to-day activities without them.

The Humanitarian Assistance Eye Surgical Team will soon deploy to Central America too. These missions are extremely rewarding. "We're not just restoring people's eyesight, we are also restoring their lives, too," said MAJ Ainbinder. Aside from the goodwill the visits provide, teams sharpen skills that support both military and community health care at home. These humanitarian missions provide unique readiness

training. Ocular injuries are a predictable outcome of war. "Real-world surgical missions such as these support our wartime mission of treating soldiers with severe eye injuries. We use the same equipment and techniques," Ainbinder continued.

The MAMC / 47th CSH Humanitarian Assistance Eye Surgical Team is capable of deploying within a short period of time. The equipment is all-man portable and capable of commercial transport with a minimum of logistical support. "Humanitarian Assistance Eye Surgical Missions provide a win-win situation for the host nation and for U. S. military readiness training," Ainbinder explained. "Our military family benefits directly from health care providers who are well trained and proud of the service they provide," said Ainbinder. "The civilian community benefits from Madigan's increased capacity to care for local trauma and civilian disasters."

Upcoming Ft. Lewis Retiree Health Fair Cont'd

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The presentations this year will include a discussion on "Food for Optimum Health" by CPT Michelle D'Amico, and Holly Trujillo, Registered Dietitians at Madigan, and representatives from Walter Reed Army Medical Center will present, "Giving the Gift of Life", an overview on organ transplant donation.

For additional information, contact MAJ Sherry Baker at 968-4382.

Acetaminophen Now Available at MAMC Primary Care Portals

Madigan Army Medical Center will now have acetaminophen (Tylenol) available to patients in the Primary Care Portals. According to COL Allen Almquist, chief of the Pharmacy, this decision was in response to a request by the Fort Lewis Family Action Plan.

After consideration by the physicians and approval by the hospital commander, it was decided that Tylenol drops; solution; chewable tablets; and regular tablets would be available through the clinics and provided to the patient by the physician or nurse practitioner in conjunction with the patient's clinic visit. If the patient uses the Telephone Advice Nurse, then Tylenol would be available to the patient at the outpatient pharmacy. Patients will need to take a ticket as done with regular prescription pick-up.